

Churchmen Reveal Plans

Rev. King To Address Rally In Norfolk June 30

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., founder - president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will address a rally staged by the Virginia Christian Leadership Conference at the Norfolk Municipal Arena Friday night, June 30.

Plans for the rally were made during a meeting of churchmen at New Calvary Baptist church Wednesday. According to the Rev. Milton B. Reid of Petersburg, president of the Virginia conference, the rally will be for the entire eastern region.

AT THE meeting Wednesday, presided over by the Rev. W. L. Hamilton, Norfolk pastor and member of the executive board of the Southern conference, twelve attending churchmen were named to the steering committee for the June 30 rally.

They are Rev. Dr. Hamilton and the Revs. W. B. Westbrook, J. Jasper Freeman, F. P. Wise, S. P. Dixon, C. E. Griffin, J. B. Henderson, John R. Gray, William B. Abbott, A. McClanney, H. M. Henderson and D. L. Collins, Williamsburg.

PLANS CALL for a financial report from the 390 churches which expressed interest in the rally during the Ministers Conference at Hampton institute and from various groups in the Tidewater area. The proceeds will be shared by the state and national Christian Leadership Conferences.

Rev. Dr. Reid said delegations are expected from all over Virginia and adjoining states.

THE JUNE 30 appearance will be the first at Norfolk for Rev. Dr. King. He was scheduled to have been a speaker at the meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership conference held here in October, 1958, but a few days before the event suffered wounds at the hands of a demented woman while autographing books in a New York department store.

Appearing in his stead at that conference were such luminaries in the Christian Leadership movement as the Revs. Fred Shuttlesworth, John L. Tilley, C. K. Steele, Ralph Abernathy and Kelly Miller Smith, among others.

In Changing World:

"It's Non-Violence, Or Non-Existence"—Dr. King

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., apostle at non-violence in the struggle for equality and social justice, asserted in an address in Norfolk Friday night on the technique for gaining freedom "it is non-violence or non-existence" for the human race.

Speaking at a rally sponsored at the City Arena by the Virginia Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King told his audience of about 2,500 that science has made the world one economic community and that it is essential that we make it "a spiritual community."

GIFTS FROM churches, clubs, other organizations and individuals collected and reported at the rally totalled \$2,874.50. More money is expected to be raised, and individuals or organizations with money should send it to the Virginia Christian Leadership Conference at 236 Harrison street, Petersburg, Va. Dr. Milton A. Reid, of Petersburg, is president.

Dr. S. A. Wilson, New Calvary Baptist pastor, Norfolk in his invocation prayed that mankind will accept the Christian belief in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. He deplored the existence of "hate and ill-will" in the world.

OTHERS ON the program included the Rev. W. B. Westbrook, Norfolk, scripture; Dr. C. E. Griffin, Norfolk, prayer; Dr. F. P. Wise, president, Baptist Ministers Conference of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Vicinity, welcome address, and the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, response.

Dr. King praised the leaders of the Sit-In demonstrations and the current "Freedom Riders." He said by non-violent protest and peaceful means more than 146 lunch counters have been desegregated in the South. He said it would have taken 15 years and millions of dollars to bring this about in the courts.

DR. KING said America

faces a dilemma because the country is "tragically divided" on its high ideal and its practice.

"If America is to remain a first class nation," the speaker said, "it can't have second class citizens." He appealed to the audience to help save America from this dilemma.

HE OUTLINED some of the things that must be done to save America. They include:

1. Developing a world perspective which will make brotherhood throughout the world. He declared "we must make it (the world) a brotherhood, or we will all perish as fools."

2. **GET RID OF** the notion that there are inferior and superior races. He said there are inferior and superior individuals but not inferior and superior races. He recited what the Jews have accomplished under difficulties, and said Negroes "must make full use of the freedom we already have."

3. Make determined effort to use the ballot. He said there are about 5,000,000 potential Negro voters in America, but only about 1,300,000 are qualified to vote. He blamed this on the "laziness and apathy" of Negroes.

4. Negroes must be willing to suffer and make a sacrifice for freedom. "Freedom is not free," Dr. King asserted. "it must be purchased." He said Negroes want integration but some are not willing to make the sacrifice to get it.

5. **NEGROES** must engage in creative protest. To do this there are some myths that must be eliminated. He mentioned the myth of time and education. Some advise that Negroes let time solve the segregation problem, but he noted "it is always right to do

DR. KING was introduced by Dr. Milton A. Reid.

A mass Choir under the direction of Mrs. Georgia Ryder of Bank Street Baptist Church furnished music.